

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00
HA-05 BIB-01 /067 W
-----065289 192101Z /70

O 192023Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3168
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 00683

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, US, SP
SUBJECT: REACTION TO USG STATEMENTS ON COMMUNIST
PARTICIPATION IN WEST EUROPEAN GOVTS

1. LOCAL REACTION UNTIL JAN. 19 TO USG STATEMENTS IN
OPPOSITION TO COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN WEST EUROPEAN
GOVTS HAD BEEN LARGELY PRO-FORMA, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF
EXTREMELY NEGATIVE EDITORIAL IN RESPECTED LEFT-LIBERAL
"EL PAIS" (SEE BELOW). HOWEVER, SENSATIONALIST MADRID
DAILY "DIARIO 16" ATTEMPTED JAN. 19 TO WHIP UP FUROR
BY ALLEGING THE EXISTENCE OF AN OFFICIAL USG DEMARCHE
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TO THE GOS NOT ONLY PUTTING IT ON NOTICE THAT WE OPPOSE
PCE PARTICIPATION IN GOVT, BUT "IMPLICITLY EXPRESSING
ITS DISPLEASURE OVER THE MONCLOA PACT," SINCE IT INCLUDES
THE SPANISH COMMUNISTS. (THIS EMBASSY AND OFFICIAL
FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMEN HAVE DENIED THAT ANY SUCH
US DEMARCHE HAS BEEN MADE--SEPTEL.)

2. GOVT AND UCD PARTY LEADERS HAD NOT EXPRESSED THEMSELVES UNTIL TODAY ON THIS ISSUE. BUT "DIARIO 16" REPORTS THAT UCD PRESS SECRETARY GUILLERMO MEDINA RESPONDED TO ITS ALLEGATIONS BY STATING THAT HE COULD NOT MAKE ANY JUDGMENT ON CHARGES OF US INTERVENTION, SINCE HE KNEW OF NO SUCH OFFICIAL DEMARCHE. HE REPORTEDLY WENT ON TO STATE THE OBVIOUS: THE PCE'S PARTICIPATION IN GOVT IS NOT AT ISSUE, IN VIEW OF ITS MODEST SHARE (LESS THAN 10) OF THE JUNE 1977 VOTE.

3. THE PSOE, FOR ITS PART, HAS THUS FAR MADE LITTLE COMMENT ON THE STATEMENTS. PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL FELIPE GONZALEZ, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS IN BONN, REPORTEDLY SAID THAT, WHILE EVERYONE HAD THE RIGHT TO MAKE WHATEVER STATEMENTS THEY CHOSE, "THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION SHOULD HAVE AVOIDED MAKING THIS SORT OF LOUD PROTESTATION." IN RESPONSE TO THE "DIARIO 16" ALLEGATIONS, PSOE PRESS SECRETARY JAVIER SOLANA REPORTEDLY STATED THAT US DECLARATIONS ON THE SUBJECT CONSTITUTED "INTERFERENCE". HOWEVER, ON THE BASIS OF A LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WE HAD JAN. 18 WITH SOLANA, THE PSOE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE PARTICULARLY EXERCISED ABOUT THE STATEMENTS AND UNDERSTANDS REASONS WHY THEY WERE MADE.

4. IT HAS BEEN THE PCE, OF COURSE, THAT HAS REACTED
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MOST NEGATIVELY. PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL SANTIAGO CARRILLO RESPONDED IMMEDIATELY THAT THE DECLARATIONS CONSTITUTED "INADMISSIBLE INTERFERENCE" IN INTERNAL SPANISH AFFAIRS. HE WENT ON TO CHARGE THAT THESE STATEMENTS INDICATED THAT NATO, RATHER THAN BEING A DEFENSIVE ALLIANCE, WAS AN INSTRUMENT USED BY THE US TO INTERFERE IN THE DOMESTIC POLITICS OF WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. IN RESPONSE TO THE "DIARIO 16" STORY, PCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER SIMON SANCHEZ MONTERO ECHOED CARRILLO'S CHARGES OF U. S. INTERFERENCE, BUT DID NOT REITERATE THE ALLUSION TO NATO.

5. MEDIA REACTION, IN CONTRAST TO THAT OF THE PARTIES, HAS BEEN UNEVEN. RESPECTED "EL PAIS," ON JAN. 15 RAN A BITINGLY CRITICAL EDITORIAL IN RESPONSE TO THE STATEMENTS (TEXT REPORTED BY FBIS). THE ARTICLE STATED INTER ALIA THAT THEY CONSTITUTED "EVEN HARSHER" WARNINGS THAN THOSE EMANATING FROM THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION. "WHEN ONE IS AT THE HEAD OF THE MOST IMPORTANT COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, WITH A LONG HISTORY OF CONSPIRACIES, COUPS D'ETAT, AND EXPORTED WARS, ONE CANNOT EXPRESS THESE OPINIONS WITH CONSIDERATION ONLY FOR WHAT ONE IS SAYING

AND NOT FOR WHAT OTHER PEOPLE WILL HEAR...CARTER'S
ATTITUDE EMPHASIZES THE FACT THAT HUMAN RIGHTS PALE
BEFORE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE DUAL WORLD IMPERIALISM
AND UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES MORAL DECLARATIONS BECOME
OUTRIGHT HYPOCRISY."

6. IN MARKED CONTRAST TO THE "EL PAIS" EDITORIAL, FORMER
FOREIGN MINISTER JOSE MARIA DE AREILZA WROTE, IN A PAGE
LONG EDITORIAL IN CONSERVATIVE "ABC," THAT "THE US
HAS BROUGHT ATTENTION--PERHAPS WITH EXCESSIVE FORCE--
TO THE RISK OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNISTS HAVING

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MADRID 00683

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

A SAY IN VARIOUS GOVTS." AND WHY ALL THE FUSS, AREILZA
ASKS SINCE "THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE OF THE WEST RESTS ON
A FEW PRINCIPLES AND POINTS OF SUPPORT. NOT A SINGLE
ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF THE MOSAIC OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES
DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY INTEGRATED IN THE ATLANTIC
MECHANISM MAY BE ALTERED WITHOUT SERIOUS DAMAGE TO
THE ENTIRE SYSTEM."

7. IN OTHER PRESS REACTION:

--GOVT-ORIENTED "ARRIBA" NOTED THAT US POLICY HAS
NOT CHANGED MUCH SINCE THE KISSINGER DAYS, ALTHOUGH
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MR. CARTER SHOULD KNOW THAT "EVERY COUNTRY IS FREE TO
DECIDE ABOUT ITS OWN FUTURE USING DEMOCRATIC MEANS,
SOMETHING THE MAN WHO ENTERED INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC LIFE
AS THE MAXIMUM DEFENDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD REALIZE. "

--CENTRIST "INFORMACIONES" CONCLUDED THAT
COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN THE ITALIAN GOVT WOULD
ENHANCE SPAIN'S VALUE TO NATO AND INCREASE THE PRESSURES
FOR IT TO JOIN. STABLER

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